

Appl. No. : 10/590,793
371(c) date : June 12, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device configured to mark and concurrently collect a sample from an individual, the device comprising:

a spike; and

a female part of a tag, comprising:

a tag part containing a through opening; and

a chamber including a chamber-part and a ring-part, wherein the chamber-part is fixed to the ring-part through the opening, and wherein the chamber-part is configured to hold a container for collecting a sample, ~~arranged on opposite sides of a through opening of the female part of the tag,~~

wherein the chamber-part and the ring-part are each ~~substantially~~ formed of a substantially rigid material, and

wherein the spike is configured to receive a device configured to collect a sample and close the means for collecting a sample and for closing a container, wherein the spike comprises an outer diameter which increases from ~~the~~ a front end to a maximum and decreases stepwise to an outer diameter essentially corresponding to an ~~outer-inner~~ diameter of the ring-part, to form a head, and the chamber is configured such that once the head is introduced into the chamber, the chamber substantially prevents the spike from being removed from the female part of the tag.

2-15 (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein either one or both of the chamber-parts are substantially formed of at least one of metal and plastic.

17. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 16, wherein the plastic comprises polyamide.

18. (Previously Presented) The device according the Claim 16, wherein the chamber-part and the ring-part are connected via ultrasonic welding.

19. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the ring-part comprises a conical area surrounding the through opening, the conical area configured to assist introduction of the spike head into the ring part.

Appl. No. : **10/590,793**
371(c) date : **June 12, 2007**

20. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the ring-part has a form extending through the opening of the female part of the tag to contact the chamber-part of the chamber.

21. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the chamber-part has one or more protrusions configured to extend into recessions or through openings formed in the female part of the tag.

22. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 21, wherein the protrusions are configured to extend through respective openings in the female part of the tag and into respective recessions formed in the ring-part of the chamber.

23. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the female part of the tag has a recess arranged around the through opening and configured to receive the ring-part of the chamber.

24. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is marked with at least one of a numeric or alphanumeric code in plain writing, a barcode, and a 2D Code and an Electronic Identification Device.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of marking an individual, the method comprising placing a tag on the individual with the device of Claim 1.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the individual is a non-human animal.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the non-human animal is one of the following: sheep, goat, pig, horse, rabbit, mouse, game animal, buffalo and pet.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the individual is deceased.

29. (Previously Presented) A method of marking and concurrently taking a sample of an individual, the method comprising:

collecting a tissue sample from the individual; and

applying a tag to the individual by connecting a spike to a chamber through a ring part, a container being releasably attached to the chamber, wherein the tissue sample is placed in the container, the container is closed, the spike enters the chamber such that the

Appl. No. : **10/590,793**
371(c) date : **June 12, 2007**

spike cannot be removed from the chamber, and the closed container containing the tissue sample is released from the chamber.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the ring part has a conical area surrounding the through opening, and the spike is assisted into the ring part by the conical area.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the chamber-part comprises one or more protrusions and the female part of the tag comprises recessions or through openings, and the method further comprises inserting the protrusions into the recessions or through openings.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 31, wherein the ring part of the chamber has one or more recesses and the method further comprises inserting the protrusions into the through openings in the female part of the tag and into the recesses.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the female part of the tag has a recess arranged around the through opening and the method further comprises receiving of the ring-part of the chamber by the recess.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the individual is a non-human animal.

35. (New) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the chamber-part is fixed to the ring-part so as to prevent separation of the chamber-part and the ring-part, and wherein the chamber-part and the ring-part are configured to prevent the spike from being removed from the female part of the tag.

36. (New) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the ring-part comprises a substantially rigid material and is configured to prevent the spike from being removed from the chamber.